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Letter dated 9 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the declaration of the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Burma/Myanmar issued on 9 October 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) **Ernst Sucharipa**
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Declaration by the European Union on Burma/Myanmar

The European Union remains deeply concerned at the deteriorating internal situation in Burma and recalls its condemnation of the detention of opposition activists, including elected representatives to the Parliament, and reiterates its call for the lifting of all restrictions on the freedom of movement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the immediate release of all political detainees in Burma.

The European Union urges once again the Burmese authorities to take steps towards democracy and national reconciliation. Any move towards the convening of Parliament, the adoption of a new democratic constitution and the holding of free and fair elections would constitute essential steps towards democracy.

Under the present circumstances, which make it impossible for the Parliament elected in 1990 to convene, the European Union notes that the opposition has found it necessary to establish a committee to temporarily represent the Parliament and hopes that the Burmese authorities reciprocate this initiative by entering into a substantive dialogue with parties which have received democratic support at the last elections.

The European Union is actively considering further political steps to underline its concern.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.